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# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

June 2006  
Vol. 7, Issue 6  
Kris Wessler,  
Editor

## Future Calendar Events

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| July 4           | Holiday                                     |
| July 6, 9 AM     | Horticultural Extravaganza Meeting          |
| July 10, 7 PM    | Extension Leadership Meeting                |
| July 11          | No monthly meeting                          |
| July 12, 6:30 PM | 4-H Mums meeting                            |
| July 19, 12 N    | WHRO Gardening Hear Say 89.5 FM             |
| July 26, 7 PM    | Ferns Class at Fred Huetten Center, Norfolk |

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Rebecca at 890-4940, or Kris Wessler at 988-0616 or e-mail [jwessler@earthlink.net](mailto:jwessler@earthlink.net) (put Green Thumb in the subject line). Ignore the computer-generated notice from Spamblocker. The deadline for *The Green Thumb* is ALWAYS the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Rebecca. We want to keep all communication channels open. Any changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

E-mail changes Dana Burnett [gardenier6@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenier6@yahoo.com)

### ***Master Gardener Mission Statement***

*Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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## Notes from Jim

Welcome Rebecca Wells! Rebecca has been hired to be the Unit Administrative Assistant for the York Extension Office. Her first day was Thursday, May 25. We look forward to Rebecca being a very competent and contributing member of our team. Please greet Rebecca when you come by the office.

Welcome Christian Cheslak! Christian has been hired into a 10-week, new, summer intern position that was initiated by VA Tech with support from York County. The purpose of the program is for the intern to experience the many facets of cooperative extension. Christian will be developing curriculum, going to 4-H camp, participating in 4-H and horticultural programming. We look forward to Christian bring in the office.

*Jim*

Coordinator's Notes - Thanks to everyone who helped make May's quarterly meeting such a great time. I always look forward to the wonderful food and fellowship. We really do have a great group! Special thanks to our speaker Jim Orband for his informative talk and slide presentation on ferns in the landscape. Some of us were able to put our new-found knowledge on fern identification to use that very afternoon during Pam Harper's garden tour. Thanks Jim!

There are so many great opportunities for our MG group to get involved in this summer and planning for many other programs yet to take place. The Summer Landscape Series, Lawn Clinics, 4-H Mums, Master Gardener College, and Safety Town are just a few of the many programs you can participate in. As we get ready for summer and take a hiatus from our monthly meetings please make sure you stay current by reading The Green Thumb. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Tuesday, June 13th at 9:30 AM, and for those of you who can't make it, have a safe summer!

*Rebecca Cho*

Reminder: No meetings in July and August, we'll start back again on Tuesday, September 12th.

Congratulations to the following new Master Gardeners for reaching their 50 volunteer hours

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Laura Couillard | Anita Lee     |
| Tom Dunmire     | Jan Puliafico |
| Michele Gazarik | Carol Tate    |
| Jane Gustin     | Kris Wessler  |

Seeds From the Editor - Jane Gustin was a member of my Master Gardener Class of 2006. All my classmates will agree that Jane had a heart of compassion that was unsurpassed. She brought baked goodies to the MG training lectures, and those who participated in Jane's pruning training classes were treated to cookie delights, deliciously displayed on beautiful serving trays and hot cider/cocoa/tea, all carefully preserved under a make-shift tent out of the way of the rain and elements. Along with the comfort food was a warm smile and a "thanks" from Jane, intended to make everyone feel great even when the weather was chillingly damp and we all wondered why we were outside in it. She was quiet, soft-spoken and gentle and we all grew to love her very much. While her time with us was short, we will not forget her. Jane, thanks for touching our lives. May you rest in the arms of God.

The Green Thumb Newsletter is prepared for York  
County Extension Volunteers by

*Jim Orband*

James M. Orband  
Extension Agent, ANR

And  
Kris Wessler, Extension Volunteer



Landscape Extravaganza - The coordinator for this year's event is Pat English, and with the help of volunteers Laurice Becker, Dottie Poniatowski, Evelyn Pinckney and Marna Brumback, the initial planning meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> set the wheels in motion. Six exciting topics have been selected for the October 7<sup>th</sup> event. As the event nears, there will most assuredly be a need for volunteers for details to make this event a success. Please mark your calendar, and if you can lend your support on the facilities-end of things (room set-up/tear-down, etc.), please let Pat know at [pjenglish@cox.net](mailto:pjenglish@cox.net).

### Horticultural Therapy Group At York Convalescent Center

113 Battle Road, Yorktown, VA 23692

The next session will be Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at 10:15 AM. Please contact Anita Lee to volunteer, or if you have any supplies to donate: 766-1788(H), 810-8532(C), or e-mail [leeproprmt@cox.net](mailto:leeproprmt@cox.net). Volunteers are needed to pick up donated flowers from florist shops in the area and to prepare floral supplies the day before. Please bring clippers or scissors and some greenery/flowers from your garden if possible. If you are looking to purchase flowers locally, please consider using the vendors who have continually and generously supported this program: Floral Fashions in Poquoson, Yorktown Flower Shoppe, and Farm Fresh at Kiln Creek and in Grafton. Thanks to all the volunteers who regularly participate. You are appreciated!! *Anita*

Learning Garden - ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE! How could we go wrong with customers lining up at 7:30 for a 9AM opening? We must thank all MGs who donated plants, potted plants at home and around the Learning Garden potting bench, made labels, advertised the sale in the papers and by word of mouth. Thanks, too, for buying plants at the MG Pre-Sale and on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The LG committee is looking forward to investing the more than \$5,400 in proceeds in the Wetlands project, permanent plant labels and stakes, laminating projects for educational materials in the garden, and of course, new and wonderful plants.

The post-sale evaluation brought the LG committee to an obvious conclusion: WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. Please consider volunteering for the wonderful craziness of our annual sale. We will always need help gathering, potting, labeling, sorting, setup, crowd control, and selection and planting advice for our customers.

At long last, we are excited to announce the arrival of truly professional plant-id labels. Installations will occur throughout the summer. Watch your email for an educational opportunity in the Learning Garden. Come work and learn any Thursday this summer!

*Agnes Evans and Diane Short*

LG Trees and Shrubs Subcommittee, Meeting Coordinators for May

### Contributions to the Coventry Garden

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Home Depot                        | \$50 gift card                                  |
| WalMart                           | \$25 gift card                                  |
| The Flower Pot                    | 6 Flats of Annuals                              |
| Peninsula Hardwood Mulch          | Azaleas   |
| TruValue Grafton                  | 30 Bags Topsoil                                 |
| Yorktown Beautification Committee | Purple Martin House and Bird bath               |
| Debbie Wolfe                      | 4 Garden Poles and Hanging Basket               |
| William Dunbar                    | Numerous Shrubs, Perennials and extensive labor |
| Joel Bunn                         | Building Raised Beds and Perennials             |

Joel Bunn, Diane Short and William Dunbar helped get all the supplies there. I cannot thank you all enough.

*Barb Dunbar*

# June 2006

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F   | S  |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |  | 1 Learning<br>Garden Mtg and<br>Work Envmtl<br>Science Bldg<br>9:30 AM | 2   | 3 1:00 "Let's<br>Talk Walks" at<br>Maymont |
| 4 5PM Fish Fry<br>Fundraiser at<br>Jamestown 4-H<br>Center | 5  | 6  | 7 9-1 MG Adv<br>Lawn Training<br>St. Joan of Arc<br>6:30 4-H Mum 1 <sup>st</sup><br>pinch YCGnds Bld | 8 LG 9:30  | 9   | 10   |
| 11   | 12   | 13 9:30-11:30<br>Monthly Ext Prgm<br>Mtg St. Luke's                              | 14 9:30-11:30<br>Summer Ldscpe<br>Series – 113<br>Pinpoint Rd Wbg                                    | 15 LG 9:30   | 16  | 17   |
| 18   | 19   | 20 MG College<br>at Blacksburg   | 21 MG College<br>at Blacksburg<br>12N Hear Say<br>Gardening on<br>WHRO 89.5 FM                       | 22 LG 9:30<br>MG College at<br>Blacksburg                              | 23 MG College<br>at Blacksburg<br>-----<br>8-4 Latecomers<br>Pesticide Re-<br>certification | 24 MG College<br>at Blacksburg             |
| 25 MG College<br>at Blacksburg                             | 26 4-H Summer<br>Camp Jamestown<br>4-H Ctr | 27 10:15 Hort<br>Therapy YRCC<br>-----<br>4-H Summer Cmp<br>Jamestown 4-H<br>Ctr | 28 4-H Summer<br>Camp Jamestown<br>4-H Ctr   | 29 LG 9:30<br>4-H Summer<br>Camp Jamestown<br>4-H Ctr                  | 30 4-H Summer<br>Camp Jamestown<br>4-H Ctr  |  |